



### **Northwest Indiana City Awarded \$6.5 Million Industrial Cleanup Grant**

The City of Hammond will receive a \$6.5 million federal grant to clean up polluted brownfield sites and make them suitable for new businesses. The U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development grant is eventually expected to lead to some 900 new jobs in an area hit hard by the recession and the downturn in the domestic steel industry. The grant, announced on April 5th by U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky, D-Ind., will help pay for two brownfield remediation projects.

About 500 jobs are eventually expected to result from work to remove contaminants at vacant downtown properties and make them suitable for future business. Another 400 jobs are forecast from cleanup and manufacturing development at the [West Point Plaza Industrial Park](#) a 74-acre site that once was a dumping ground for trash, tires, construction debris and other materials.

Two businesses have been operating at the site since 1999, with two more expected soon, said Dennis Terry, the city's chief of staff. Through the cleanup work, the industrial park will be expanded to 100 acres, with federal money now available to help pay for infrastructure.

Because of Hammond's prior involvement in brownfield redevelopment, the United Nations recently cited the Lake County City for having a model program.